

The Boomer



Vol. 50, No. 6

459th Air Refueling Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve, Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

June 2005



New wing commander makes history

The Boomer

Vol. 50 No. 6

Commander, 459 ARW
Col. Stayce D. Harris

Editorial Staff
Director of Public Affairs
Capt. Nikki Credic

Chief of Public Affairs
1st Lt. Tim Smith

Staff Writers
Capt. Patrick Maloney
Staff Sgt. Natasha Suber

NCOIC
Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell

Editor
Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell

Information Management Specialist
Tech. Sgt. Shirley Wilson

Unit Public Affairs Representatives
Lt. Col. Dale Bateman, 69 APS
Maj. Christine Dileo, 459 AES
Maj. Kevin Stewart, 459 CES
Maj. William Mosier, 459 ASTS
1st Lt. Mark Magdaleno, 756 ARS
Senior Master Sgt. Fredric Johnson, 69 APS
Tech. Sgt. Warren Allen, 459 MXG
Tech. Sgt. Marcia Muse, 459 MOF
Tech. Sgt. Elizel Vega, 459 SFS
Master Sgt. Charles Holt, 459 AMS
Staff Sgt. Michael Flaherty, 459 OG&OSF
Senior Airman Anain Romero, 459 SVF

This authorized Air Force Reserve newspaper is published for the members of the 459th Air Refueling Wing, Andrews AFB, Md. The Boomer is printed by McDonald and Eudy, Temple Hills, Md. Contents of the Boomer are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense or the Department of the Air Force. The editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office of the 459th Air Refueling Wing, 3755 Patrick Ave., Rm. 213, Andrews AFB, Md. 20762-4814, phone number (240) 857-6873. The deadline for submission is the Friday after the UTA for the next month's issue. All photos are the property of the U.S. Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

See Inside:

Commentary	pg. 2-3
News	pg. 4-6, 10-12
Features	pg. 7-9
Pomp and Circumstance	pg. 13
Community News	pg. 14
UTA Schedule	pg. 15
Hours of Operation	pg. 16

COMMENTARY

Success is our Team Achieving Readiness: Preparing for a STAR performance

Commander's Call

Col. Stayce D. Harris
Commander, 459th Air Refueling Wing



In July, we will demonstrate success during our IR (Initial Response) inspection with our partners, the 89th Airlift Wing. This inspection evaluates our Wing's readiness. Your Unit Deployment Manager's and IR team have been working tirelessly to prepare for the IR. As we count down the days to the inspection, continue this team effort and ensure your own readiness to deploy. This real world requirement requires our on-going attention and will pay great dividends in preparing for our October deployment and all future ones.

Having this exercise with the 89th AW also demonstrates our total force capabilities and enhances our "Team Andrews" bond. As Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, Commander of Air Force Reserve Command said, "The joining of Reserve and Guard Airmen alongside active-duty members strengthens an important relationship for our war-fighting capability. We must do this to ensure that the Air Force Reserve is a vital part of the Air Force for the future."

Success is our Team Achieving Readiness. Let's demonstrate our readiness and give a 459th STAR performance during this inspection and beyond! I look forward to meeting and serving with you all.

Without thinking, we're lucky to be alive

By Staff Sgt. Don Branum
50th Space Wing Public Affairs

SCHRIEVER AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. (AFPN) — Our office had a safety briefing with a different flavor before the Memorial Day weekend. Each of us had to relate a story about something we had done that might not have happened if we had thought about it before doing it — simple risk management.

My own story was about fatigued driving. I was a member of the honor guard and was responsible for driving the other 11 people in our funeral detail to and from the ceremony. We had finished the detail and were on our way back. I was just as exhausted, but too proud to admit it or ask someone else to drive. The van began to drift toward the right side of the road the second or third time my eyes drooped. We all were extremely lucky I woke up when the front right tire scraped along the side of the pavement.

The most sobering story came next from a person who told us about a kayaking trip he took on his 21st birthday. Again, the notice was short, and he didn't give himself time to prepare. The river got choppy shortly after he and his friends began their adventure, and

his kayak flipped. Rolling over on a kayak is a common occurrence, but he was not adequately trained to recover. After three failed attempts to right himself, he reached for the pull cord to get out of his kayak. The pull cord was nowhere to be found. In his haste to prepare for the trip, he had tucked the cord inside the rubber skirt of his kayak. "At the time, I thought, 'that's it, I'm dead,'" he said.

He had been submerged for about 45 seconds. He changed his mind a few seconds later and tore frantically at the kayak's skirt to free himself. After struggling for several more seconds, he pulled himself out and swam to safety.

We each shared our own harrowing tale. As we listened, we took notes about what we thought contributed to each person's situation. We chuckled as we scribbled down "foolhardiness," "lack of training" or "lack of preparation."

The most important lesson I came away with is this: if you do not determine the consequences of your decision before you make it, you'll be lucky to survive the experience. Risk management has to be more than a dusty copy of an Air Force instruction.

Summer —a season to exercise off-duty safety

By Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley

Commander, Air Force Reserve Command

"There are no second acts in American lives," F. Scott Fitzgerald once wrote. Memorial Day weekend signals the start of summer, traditionally a time of fun and sun. During the 101 critical days of summer, we sometimes try to do too much because of the extra sunlight. Here are suggestions on how to keep healthy and safe this summer:

Alcohol consumption — Don't drink and operate vehicles, such as automobiles, boats, jet skis, etc. If you drink, do it moderately and always appoint a designated driver.



Traveling — Be sober, vigilant and well-rested. Ensure everyone wears a seat belt.



Watercraft — Know your craft and use personal floatation devices. Use caution when operating boats and jet skis, staying away from other boaters, swimmers and jet skiers.



Motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles —

Don't operate any of them without proper training and personal protective equipment. Always remain vigilant and drive defensively.



Outdoor activities — Before and after athletic activity, take a short moderate-to-brisk walk to improve circulation rather than stretching, which experts say contributes to muscle strain. Know your limits and don't overdo it. Avoid prolonged exposure to the sun, use sunscreens and drink plenty of water.



Swimming — Swim with a buddy in known waters and don't drink. In the past few years we've been made more aware of the need for diligent force protection.

We need to apply this same kind of vigilance off duty during the 101 critical days of summer.



Most mishaps involve one or more of the following factors: alcohol, fatigue, darkness, bad weather, poor judgment, inappropriate risk-taking. Let's use common sense, plan ahead and be prepared.

An "it-will-never-happen-to-me" attitude is not a guarantee but rather a recipe for disaster. Take care of your family and of your Air Force family. Be alert and prevent incidents that could cause a lifetime of regrets.

On the cover



Col. Stayce D. Harris, 459th Air Refueling Wing commander (right), receives the 459 ARW flag from Maj. Gen. Robert E. Duignan (left), commander 4th Air Force, while Command Chief Patti Hickman remains at attention, during a change of command ceremony May 22. Col. Harris is the first African American woman to lead a flying wing in the Air Force. (Photo by Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell)

FLIGHTLINE

Question: What is your favorite summer activity?



Tech. Sgt. Phillip Williams, 459 MSG

"I like to swim at the pool, hike and go to amusement parks."



Tech. Sgt. Darryl Washington, 459 RS

"I like to eat ice cream."



Maj. Jeri Lahmann, 459 MSG

"I like outdoor bar-b-que's and staying at bed and breakfast places in the country."



Maj. Kirra Erickson, 459 AES

"I enjoy not being at school and relaxing during the summer."



Senior Airman Karalee Mulsow, 459 OSF

"I enjoy not being at school and relaxing during the summer."

New law to affect SGLI payments, premiums

WASHINGTON (AFP)— Defense Department and Veterans Affairs officials are ironing out details of programs that will expand benefits provided through Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The \$82 billion supplemental legislation signed into law by President Bush on May 11 increases maximum SGLI coverage to \$400,000 and provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for servicemembers with traumatic injuries, said Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance.

The increased SGLI coverage will take effect Sept. 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit, Dec. 1. The legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, Mr. Wurtz said. Traumatic SGLI benefits will be retroactive for servicemembers who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic injuries as a direct result of injuries received during operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom.

The benefit does not apply to servicemembers suffering from disease. The retroactive coverage increase is payable as a result of deaths in either operation, or under other conditions prescribed by the secretary of defense, Mr. Wurtz said. Servicemembers enrolled in the SGLI pro-

gram will notice an increase in their premiums when the increases take effect.

The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will likely cost about \$1 a month, Mr. Wurtz said. Servicemembers opting for maximum SGLI coverage — \$400,000 vs. the current \$250,000 — will see their monthly premiums increase from \$16.25 to \$26, Mr. Wurtz said.

This is based on the rate of 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage. SGLI coverage is currently available in \$10,000 increments, but as of Sept. 1, the increments will increase to \$50,000. Because the rates have not changed, servicemembers who retain \$250,000 or less coverage will see no increase in their premiums, Mr. Wurtz said, except for the \$1 traumatic SGLI premium.

While these expanded benefits will be provided retroactively, affected servicemembers will not be charged retroactive payments, he said. DOD will absorb that cost.

In a new twist introduced through the supplemental legislation, servicemembers with dependents must get their spouse's approval to purchase less than the full amount of SGLI coverage.

In the case of people who are not married, notice will be provided to the designated

beneficiary when the person purchases less than the maximum coverage.

The new traumatic SGLI benefit is designed to provide "a quick infusion of cash" for cash-strapped families of troops recuperating from traumatic injuries received in the line of duty, Mr. Wurtz said. Compensation will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, and is designed to help family members of severely wounded troops leave their homes and jobs to be with their loved one during recovery.

"These families incur a lot of expenses, and this is designed to help them financially," Mr. Wurtz said. While VA staff members consult with DOD officials to write regulations that will put the new SGLI benefits into effect, Mr. Wurtz said, "lots and lots of details have to be worked out."

Among outstanding issues is the fact that the expanded SGLI coverage is part of the supplemental legislation package that funds operations only through Sept. 30.

That is 30 days after the new SGLI limit takes effect and two months before the traumatic SGLI benefit begins. Mr. Wurtz said VA is confident Congress will resolve this issue before there is any lapse in coverage. VA will continue to oversee and control the SGLI program.

Airmen allowed to show service colors while traveling

WASHINGTON—A new Air Force policy gives Airmen the choice to show their colors when traveling to and from deployment locations. Airmen traveling to and from the U.S. Central Command Air Forces' area of responsibility have been, until recently, required to wear civilian clothing on flights in and out of the area.

Under a new policy, Airmen now have the option to wear their desert combat uniform on those flights. The policy change came after suggestions to both the chief of staff and chief master sergeant of the Air Force, said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, the Air Force's uniform board superintendent.

"This started with queries to Air Force senior leaders as they toured the AOR," Sergeant Athnos said. "This was about pride. Other services were coming home in uniform and experiencing tremendous support along the way from the American public.

Our Airmen were in civilian clothes, and people didn't readily recognize them as Air Force personnel. They simply want the country to know they are proud of their service too."

The new policy allows Airmen to wear their uniforms when traveling inside the United States to their port of departure, so long as they fly aboard a U.S.-based airline. Airmen may also wear their uniforms when traveling to the AOR if they are flying on a military or chartered commercial aircraft.

The same rules apply when Airmen come home. One concern for policy makers is that Airmen remember to conduct themselves as true Air Force professionals.

Sergeant Athnos said Airmen are reminded that their uniforms must always be clean and serviceable; they must be in compliance with dress and appearance instructions and always conduct themselves in a manner befitting the Air Force.

Some Airmen might want to wear their uniforms when traveling to a deployed location, but are afraid of drawing unnecessary attention to themselves. Sergeant Athnos said U.S. airports have plenty of security, and that the Air Force has historically allowed or even required Airmen to be in uniform when aboard aircraft.

"Besides, if you were in civilian clothes, you would still have your web gear and your mobility bags with you, and you are still hanging around the (United Services Organization)," she said. "It's not a secret that you are in the military."

Also, part of the policy is a requirement that Airmen carry a change of civilian clothes with them if they choose to wear a uniform, and a clean uniform if they choose to wear civilian clothes. That kind of preparedness allows Airmen to adjust their appearance should the situation demand it. (Courtesy Air Force Print News)

New commandwide anti-drug initiative begins

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga.—Supply and demand are part of life in America. Unfortunately, that life includes a large supply of abused legal and illegal drugs.

In an effort to reduce the demand for these drugs, Air Force Reserve Command began its “True Blue” campaign command wide in April.

“In the past, anti-drug or anti-substance abuse efforts were all negative and centered on disciplinary action,” said Dr. Don Jenrette, the command’s drug demand reduction program manager. “Our new True Blue initiative promotes healthy living, career-mind sets and career role models.”

Trial runs of the new initiative exceeded planners’ goals during May - November 2004 at the 440th Airlift Wing, located at General Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve Station, Milwaukee, Wis.

“We focused the trial test around four themes,” said Ms. Bobbie Sellers, AFRC’s drug demand reduction specialist. “We worked to raise awareness of what reservists should value over substance abuse and what they can do to protect their health, career and family and fulfill their leadership role with others.”

Since 1998, the primary emphasis of

AFRC’s Drug Demand Reduction Program was detection through random military and civilian drug testing.

The new True Blue initiative showcases positive and healthy life choices. It introduces reservists and other command members to a new logo, themes and messages that are communicated by a dedicated Web site, with downloadable in-house developed posters, video streams, tri-fold pamphlets and other educational venues encouraging people to be free of substance abuse and where to go for help.

“Our goal, while a lofty one, is to have a workplace free of substance abuse,” said Dr. Jenrette. “In the profession of arms, our people often put their lives in the hands of their co-workers. We cannot afford to have people on the team who are not at the top of their game or incapacitated by substance abuse – after all, we are talking about a matter of life and death.”

The mission of the AFRC Drug Demand Reduction Program is to enhance readiness by eliminating substance abuse through prevention, education, community outreach and drug testing.

“In the past, we have used handouts such as pencils, writing pads, calculators and

water bottles to get the substance abuse-free message out there,” said Dr. Jenrette. “We’ll continue to provide the promotional items, but our targeted four theme approach is something brand new that our reservists really responded to in a positive way in Milwaukee. On a larger scale we’re looking forward to reaping similar benefits by launching this initiative commandwide.”

The 440th Airlift Wing has 1,300 reservists, with more than 300 serving overseas to support the Global War on Terrorism. The True Blue brand is designed to symbolize reservists who are “twice the citizen”: working and volunteering in their local communities and serving their country.

The program’s vision is for Air Force True Blue reservists to set the standard and lead the way to a substance abuse-free community. Reservists can learn more about the program by going to the True Blue link on the restricted AFRC Web site. While visiting the site, planners encourage visitors to take a moment to complete a survey.

“We strongly encourage feedback,” said Dr. Jenrette. “That’s how we can make the site the best it can be and the go-to place for anti-substance abuse related education and information.” (AFRC News Service)

Defense Department to resume anthrax vaccinations

WASHINGTON (AFPN)—The Department of Defense will resume its Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program, officials said May 3.

A memorandum signed April 29 allows military commanders to resume the vaccination program using the emergency use authorization conditions issued by the Food and Drug Administration on Jan. 27, 2005.

The program requires commanders to follow EUA conditions very carefully, providing members of the armed services both education on the program and an option to refuse the vaccination without penalty.

This significant step allows the department to resume this vital protection measure for servicemembers who are at increased risk of exposure to anthrax attack, said Dr. William Winkenwerder, assistant secretary of

defense for health affairs.

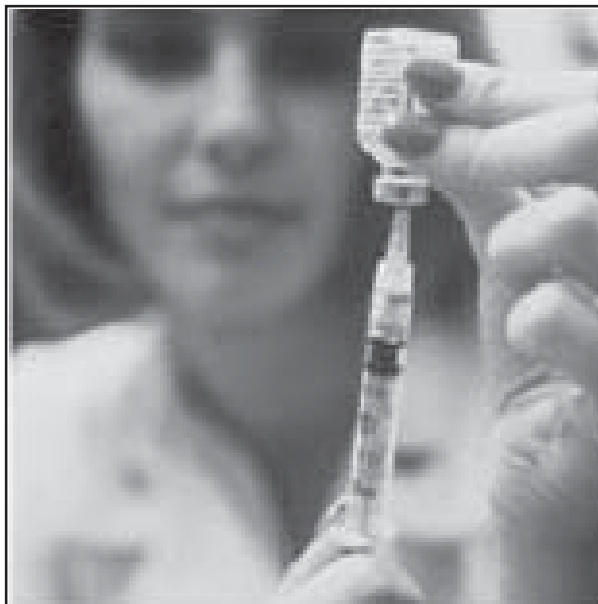
On April 6, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted the

government’s motion to modify the court’s AVIP injunction against mandatory anthrax vaccination from Oct. 27, 2004.

Once vaccinations begin, DOD will provide an education and information program, including an FDA-approved brochure, to inform potential vaccine recipients and healthcare providers that FDA has authorized the emergency use of anthrax vaccine to prevent inhalation anthrax.

People will also be informed about the vaccine’s benefits and side effects before they are asked to decide about vaccination.

For the most part, vaccinations during the period of the EUA will be limited to military units designated for homeland bioterrorism defense and to U.S. forces assigned to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility and Korea.



Air Force finalizes new utility uniform

WASHINGTON — Blue and green tiger stripes are out; the digitized pattern with subdued green, tan, blue and gray is in.

After reviewing more than 150,000 bits of feedback throughout the initial seven-month wear test of the proposed utility uniform, Air Force leaders recently decided to eliminate the original color scheme and conduct a limited field test of the new pattern.

Special operations and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen will conduct a limited wear test of the new design at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Fairchild AFB, Wash., in June.

“The sole purpose of the test will be to see if we can add any features to the uniform to make it a better uniform in the field and to determine if the new colors and pattern provide camouflage protection they need in the field,” said Senior Master Sgt. Dana Athnos, Air Force uniform board superintendent.

Airmen who participated in the

initial wear test stopped wearing the more vibrant blue-green uniform March 1. The original wear test involved more than 700 Airmen at 32 bases worldwide who kept detailed daily logs annotating likes, dislikes and

wash-and-wear problems. They also completed three surveys.

“Throughout the test, Air Force leaders actively solicited feedback from testers and observers alike to ensure this uniform developed into one that fit the needs of today’s Airmen,” Sergeant Athnos said.

“There were several avenues for feedback, ensuring that the (Air Force) chief of staff had realistic facts when making the final decision on the uniform,” she said. Those avenues included a survey sent to 45,000 Airmen, a Web site and direct e-mail to the uniform board. “Some comments were positive, some were negative — all of them were provided directly to the chief of staff,” Sergeant Athnos said. The uniform is scheduled to be procured in mid-2005, officials said. Airmen can expect to purchase the uniform sometime in fiscal 2007. The proposed uniform will be phased in over four or five years.



Air Force officials released photos of the latest version of the proposed Air Force utility uniform. Special operations and survival, evasion, resistance and escape Airmen will conduct a limited wear test of the new design at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Hurlburt Field, Fla., and Fairchild AFB, Wash., in June. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. David Jablonski)

DOD to increase Tricare access for reserve components

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Defense Department officials have made “tremendous efforts and strides” to meet the needs of reservists and guardsmen who now qualify for healthcare coverage under the Tricare program, the program manager said June 8.

The recent introduction of new patients into the Tricare system presents “a challenge,” but DOD is being “very attentive” to the needs of new Tricare participants, said Dr. David Tornberg, acting deputy director of the Tricare Management Activity and deputy assistant secretary of defense for clinical and program policy.

Thousands of reservists and guardsmen and their families became eligible to purchase healthcare insurance through Tricare in late April. Congress authorized the new benefit, called Tricare Reserve Select, for reserve component servicemembers under the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act.

The plan is designed to serve as a bridge

for reserve-component troops leaving active duty who are not covered by civilian employer or other health insurance plans, defense officials said. Tricare Reserve Select is available to all reserve component troops who have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001, served supporting a contingency operation and agree to continued service in the Selected Reserve.

To help ensure that licensed physicians across the nation accept these and other Tricare patients, Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, sent letters to national and state medical associations last August, seeking their support.

In addition, the Tricare Management Activity is surveying 20 U.S. metropolitan areas to determine what Tricare resources are available and whether they are sufficient to meet the current need, said Maj. Michael Shavers, a Pentagon spokesman.

The survey results will help DOD officials identify areas where beneficiaries may run into difficulties getting access to Tricare services and to help resolve those problems, Major Shavers said.

A similar survey was conducted last year, as required by the 2004 National Defense Authorization Act legislation. As DOD officials work to increase the number of Tricare providers and improve access to the network, Dr. Tornberg said that 80 percent of guardsmen and reservists called to active duty already are covered by another form of health insurance.

After 30 days on active duty, they qualify for full benefits under the Tricare system — a system Dr. Tornberg said “has one of the most generous and robust benefits available in the health insurance market.”

More information about Tricare, including a description of services available by location, is available on the Tricare Web site.

What's your sign?

By 2nd Lt. William Powell
325th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFP) — Quick. What was Tom Cruise's call sign in "Top Gun?" How about Anthony Edwards, his back seat radar intercept officer in the F-14 Tomcat?

Most fans of the military film are quick to respond with Maverick and Goose. But where do call signs like these come from, and just how are pilots "named?"

Details are scarce concerning the origin of call signs and how the first pilots were named, but the tradition became popular in World War II, said Yvonne Kincaid, an Air Force historian. The first call signs were likely used by ground controllers to communicate with pilots, as pilot-to-pilot radio wasn't efficient at that time," she said. "It was faster and easier to call a pilot by his nickname, and it would have confused the enemy in case they were listening."

The call sign has since evolved into a tradition celebrated by each branch of the military. Naming rituals vary by branch and by squadron, but three rules universally apply: Pilots who do not have good names when they arrive at their first operational squadron, will be given new ones; they probably will not like them; and, if they complain, they will get even worse names.

"There are a few different ways a pilot can earn his call sign," said Maj. Pedro Gonzalez, 2nd Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations. "Some natural call signs play off a person's last name, such as Speedy Gonzalez, Allen Wrench or Specht Tater. Other people may get named for how they look, such as Shamu if the pilot is carrying a few extra pounds, or named after a movie character he resembles, Major Gonzalez said.

"One pilot here is called Shrek because he looks exactly like the movie character, minus the green color," he said. "No matter what he does, he's not going to get a different call sign."

A pilot will often carry his call sign with

him from squadron to squadron and as he moves from base to base. The exception is when a pilot draws attention to himself by acting out of the ordinary, which is another way to receive a name. "I got my call sign, Mad Dog, after a check ride during my training," Major Gonzalez said. "I 'shot down' three bad guys, which was good, but I also fired at my evaluator, who was one of the good guys."



Illustration by Bryan Snuffer

Mad Dog is what they call an AIM-120 advanced medium-range air-to-air missile that is fired at no predetermined target. It is indiscriminating and will shoot down the first thing it sees, friend or foe, he said.

"So my squadron said they would have to send me out to battle first, let me fire off all my missiles, and then send me home so I don't shoot any friendlies. The name stuck and also sounded pretty tactical, so I got lucky on that one," he said.

Depending upon the squadron, a call sign will have more than one explanation behind its origin: one tactical and one highly exaggerated. In some cases, a squadron will name a pilot and then make up a tactical reason for it later. But in all cases, only 10 percent of the story has to be true. "I was at my naming party in Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska, and we had to make radio calls based on what we saw on a pretend radar screen," said Maj. Christopher Levy, 19th Air Force air-to-air training chief. "Whether or not we got the calls right depended on what we saw. I made some good radio calls, so the squad-

ron decided to name me Yoda. It was either because I was the all-knowing, all-seeing fighter pilot, or because I was a short, funny looking man in green with big ears."

Similar to Major Levy's naming party, fighter squadrons here hold solo parties to give student pilots temporary call signs following their first solo flight in an F-15 Eagle. "I was taught all the initial fundamentals of flying the Eagle by Major Craig 'Buick' Dye, who is well-known amongst the other instructors here for his unique teaching style and short stature," said 1st Lt. Jon Snyder, 2nd FS B-Course student. "So, the instructors named me Pontiac because a Pontiac is larger and quieter than a Buick, but drives worse."

Even innocent-sounding call signs may have an embarrassing or funny story behind them, as is the case with many pilots. Torch is a relatively pleasant name, for example, but Maj. Matthew Esper, 1st FS assistant director of operations, said his story involves him 'going down in flames.' I was selected to run the Olympic torch (before) the Atlanta Olympics," Major Esper said. "I had to run about a mile and then hand the torch to another runner, a Special Olympian.

As I approached the handoff point, I concentrated so hard on the handoff that I forgot to look at the pavement, which was slightly uneven. I tripped and fell and broke my fall with my face instead of dropping the torch.

The Special Olympian thought it was the funniest thing he had ever seen and gave me no credit for not dropping the torch." No matter what embarrassing or funny things a pilot does, the call sign he or she receives is normally not too offensive or humiliating. Pilots still have an image to uphold as American defenders.

But as they defend America and her allies, they know one wrong move or embarrassing situation could be summed up in one word and forever immortalized as their call sign. (Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service)

First female commander ta

By Master Sgt. Shayne Sewell

Wing Public Affairs

The Air Force Reserve made history last month when Col. Stayce D. Harris took command of the 459th Air Refueling Wing here in a change of command ceremony held in the fuel cell.

Colonel Harris is the first African-American woman to command a flying wing in the Air Force. "I believe the Air Force and the military as a whole provides opportunities for all. I am just an example of what we can do in the military," said Harris to news channel 8 reporter John Gonzales during a media interview.

Born in Los Angeles, Calif., and living all over the world with her mother and father, an Air Force career enlisted man, gave Harris an appreciation for travel and the military. She graduated from 71st High School in Fayetteville, N.C., in 1977 and was then accepted into the University of Southern California on an engineering ROTC scholarship. Colonel Harris graduated with an industrial systems engineering degree and spent her first year and a half in the Air Force as chief of industrial engineering and then as the squadron section commander of civil engineering at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. She then attended pilot training in Arizona and within three years was qualified as an aircraft commander on the C-141B Starlifter cargo aircraft. "I can't imagine doing anything else," said Harris.

Harris separated from active duty in August 1990 and became an airline pilot for United Airlines where she flies a Boeing 747-400 aircraft each week from the west coast to Tokyo and Sydney, Australia. For the last 14 years, Harris has balanced her Air Force career with her civilian airline career.

She remained tied to the Air Force by being in the Reserve where she was an air operations officer and pilot on the C-141. She also served as an individual mobilization augmentee to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon from 1997 to



akes reign of the 459 ARW



2000.

While still flying for United and flying the C-141, Colonel Harris also served as the Reserve deputy commander of the 452nd Operations Group, March Air Reserve Base, Calif., and later served as the commander of the 729th Airlift Squadron at March ARB from 2001-2002.

Prior to arriving to Andrews AFB, she was the vice commander of the 507th Air Refueling Wing for three years at Tinker AFB, Okla., where she began flying the KC-135 Stratotanker. She will continue to balance her civilian career with her Air Force career as commander. "The Air Force has always been my passion," said Harris, "so this is the job I really enjoy keeping because of the people. This is where my heart is," she said.

Her vision is for the 459th to be the shining example of an air refueling wing in Air Force Reserve Command. "We will set the example for others to follow," said Harris.

With more than 2,500 hours flying military aircraft and 8,000 hours flying for United Airlines, she often makes herself available to participate in several organizations such as the Tuskegee Airman organization that strives to expose youth to careers in aviation and educational opportunities. The pioneering spirit of the Tuskegee Airman inspired Col. Harris at a young age and they are like family to her now. "At the time, they probably had no idea of the positive impact they would have on every American. They are my heroes," said Harris, crediting the Tuskegee Airman with giving her the determination and motivation to become a pilot.

Colonel Harris is a new member of the 756th Squadron Association, Inc., and a life member of the Air Force Association, Reserve Officer Association and the Air Force Sergeant's Association. She is also involved with 'Women in Aviation,' where she is often a guest speaker and the Organization of Black Pilots, plus the Rotary Club.

Col. Stayce D. Harris currently flies the KC-135 Stratotanker and became the first African American woman to lead a flying wing in the Air Force, Sunday, May 15 during a change of command ceremony at Andrews AFB. (Photo by Maj. Rich Curry)

Air National Guard fighter jets respond quickly to stray aircraft

WASHINGTON (AFP)—The military's actions when a small private plane strayed into the no-fly zone over the nation's capital area May 11 were "just a normal response" that demonstrates the Air National Guard continues to be "ready to respond at a moment's notice," a member of the unit involved said. Airmen from the District of Columbia Air National Guard's 121st Fighter Squadron scrambled at noon to intercept the stray Cessna aircraft after it violated airspace restrictions.

The incident sparked evacuations at the White House and Capitol. Two F-16 Fighting Falcons took off from Andrews Air Force Base, Md. The Guardsmen approached the aircraft and used shortwave radios to signal its pilot, said Master Sgt. Arthur Powell,

113th Wing spokesman.

The fighter jets fired four warning flares to get the pilot's attention, then escorted the aircraft out of restricted airspace to a local airport in nearby Frederick, Md., according to a statement issued by North American Aerospace Defense Command.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan said that a Black Hawk helicopter assigned to the Department of Homeland Security also escorted the plane. After the mission, the F-16s returned to Andrews, NORAD officials said.

The aircraft came within three miles of the White House before turning west, Mr. McClellan said. The threat level at the White House was raised to red — the highest level — at 12:03 p.m., before the interception was

successful, he said. By 12:11 p.m., the threat level returned to yellow, and the "all clear" was issued three minutes later, he said. Sergeant Powell called the interception mission "a standard response" to threats against the U.S. capital.

He said aircraft occasionally stray into the no-fly zone over the national capital area, particularly during sunny days. The 113th Wing, which includes the 121st Fighter Squadron, has served on rotational duty supporting Operation Noble Eagle since shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Sergeant Powell said.

This is one reason the D.C. area should feel secure," he said. "(Today's reaction) shows we're ready to respond at a moment's notice."



F-16 Fighting Falcon flies over the Pentagon. (Photo courtesy Air Force Link)

Andrews chief goes to wire on quiz show

By Master Sgt. Kirk Clear
89th Airlift Wing Historian

An Airman from here got a chance to “Stump the Schwab” on ESPN2’s nationally televised sports quiz show April 26.

Chief Master Sgt. Troy Marvin, the 89th Communications Group superintendent, finished as the top contestant and came within one question of winning \$5,000.

The show is centered around ESPN’s top researcher and sports guru, Howie Schwab. Mr. Schwab has been with the network since it began in 1979. ESPN officials said they felt so confident with his sports knowledge that last year they decided to develop a quiz show around his talent.

The 30-minute show pits three contestants against each other and Mr. Schwab, answering sports trivia questions.

The top contestant of the night goes one-on-one against Mr. Schwab at the climax of the show in an attempt to “Stump the Schwab.” The top contestants of the season are invited back at a later date to narrow the field until one remaining contender is left. That top challenger goes head-to-head with Mr. Schwab in the season finale with \$25,000 on the line.

In the show’s first year, no one defeated Mr. Schwab in the finale.

All shows for this season have already

aired, as 75 contestants attempted to move on. Chief Marvin was one of the top nine invited back to compete in the semifinals. However, he will not be able to attend the show’s taping because he is on a temporary duty assignment.

“While I’m disappointed I’m not able to continue to the semifinals, I volunteered for this ... duty, and I’m committed to fulfilling my military job,” Chief Marvin said. “I thanked ESPN, but told them that because of my military commitment, I won’t be able to attend the semifinal taping. I was just very happy I got to go and test my abilities on the show.”

The 24-year veteran has competed in many sports quiz contests nationwide. He said he has always done well, and has even been banned from four contests because he won year after year.

Chief Marvin said of all the contests he has competed in, “Stump the Schwab” was probably the toughest because of the screening process.

In March, the chief said he went to Philadelphia for an exhausting tryout. He made it through and was then invited to New York to compete on one of the 30-minute episodes.

“Since it was on national television, and the fact of going up against the Schwab, made it a nerve-racking experience,” Chief

Marvin said. “But I came to the conclusion that it took a lot of guts just to be there, and I settled down.”

On the show, Chief Marvin made it through the first two rounds, eliminating his opponents one by one. He then went head to head with Mr. Schwab in the episode’s final round.

The final round consists of three questions in each of four categories, with the opponent picking the question. There are two ways to win: To accumulate the most points or the opponent incorrectly answers three questions.

The score was tied 6-6, and it came down to one question each. Mr. Schwab correctly answered his question and took a 9-6 lead.

With two strikes, Chief Marvin’s final question was in the hockey category. The question was about a 1995 on-ice incident, and Chief Marvin said he could not recall the correct answer.

“Overall, considering the questions asked, I think I did well,” Chief Marvin said.

Stuart Scott, the show’s host, and Mr. Schwab thanked the chief throughout the show for serving his country.

Just before the final round, Mr. Schwab again expressed his gratitude to Chief Marvin and all the military, and said, “Thank you, and good luck, but I still want to beat you.”

BRAC process sets stage for future infrastructure

WASHINGTON (AFP)—The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process will set the stage for the military well into the future, Defense Department officials said. This is the best chance the department will have to reset the force to meet the challenges of the 21st century, said officials.

“We don’t know where the next threat will come from, but we know one will come, and we must be ready,” said a senior DOD official.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld’s recommendations for base closure and realignment are due to the nine-member BRAC commission “not later than” May 16.

The process will allow DOD to “rationalize” its infrastructure to match what planners believe will be the force structure for the future, said Michael Wynne, undersecretary for acquisition, technology and logistics.

The changes, he said, will allow DOD to put in place the infrastructure needed to continue the transformation process. “We tried to think about how to maximize joint utilization,” Mr. Wynne said. This will allow the services to better share resources and improve efficiency, he said.

It will also allow the services to facilitate joint operations and joint training. Finally, the process will “convert waste to warfighting,” Mr. Wynne said.

Resources now devoted to maintaining capabilities no longer needed take money away “from the tip of the spear.” Philip Grone, deputy undersecretary for installations and environment, agreed with Mr. Wynne’s assessment.

The commissioners will hold hearings and visit installations through September. At that point, they give their recommendations to President Bush for his review and approval,

Mr. Grone said. The list has an “all-or-nothing” provision.

The president must accept or reject the entire list. If he approves, the process moves to Congress. If the president disagrees with portions of the list, he can return it once to the commission. He may include specific recommendations.

The commissioners can take the list and “change it or not. It is up to them,” Mr. Grone said. They then return it to the president.

If the president still disagrees, the process ends. No president has disapproved a BRAC list. In Congress, it is also an all-or-nothing effort, Mr. Grone said. Congress can disapprove the list or do nothing, and after 45 days the list becomes law.

If all goes well, DOD can begin implementing the law sometime in December, he said. There are a couple of changes in the process from previous BRAC rounds.

459th 50-year Reunion Approaching

Who: All those affiliated with the 459th, past and present, are encouraged to attend

What: An evening of dining, special entertainment, dancing and lots of camaraderie

Guest Speaker: Lt. Gen. Jimmy Sherrard, Retired
Former AFRC Commander

Where: Andrews Community Activities Center Ballroom, Bldg 1442, Andrews Air Force Base

When: Saturday 22 October, 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Entrée Menu Choices: Feast of London Broil or Roasted Chicken

To Purchase your ticket(s):

Make check or money order out to: 459th 2005 Reunion

Mail payment to: 459th 2005 Reunion

% Beth Bruker Walos

1209 Harmony Heights Drive

Harmony, Pa 16037

Last/First Name _____

Rank/Title _____

Guest(s) Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Home _____

Work _____

Cell _____

Your dinner entrée selection: Number of London Broil Entrees _____

Number of Roasted Chicken Entrees _____

Event POCs: Beth.BrukerWalos@Youngstown.af.mil or after 5 p.m. EST, call (724) 453-1313

Miserablemiller@bellsouth.net Home phone: (321) 799-3903 Cell phone: (321) 795-6407

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE



Senior Master Sgt. John Hubbell
Senior Master Sgt. Stevie Gray
Senior Master Sgt. Howard Lee III (PEP-April 1)



Master Sgt. Gregory Booker
Master Sgt. Derrick Hauser
Master Sgt. Gary Snowden, Sr.
Master Sgt. Daniel Ringwelski (PEP-April 1)



Tech. Sgt. Daniel Sinclair
Tech. Sgt. Jacqueline Gardner
Tech. Sgt. Brenda Simms
Tech. Sgt. Samuel Wardell
Tech. Sgt. Glen Lacre (PEP-April 1)



Staff Sgt. Frank Zubko	Staff Sgt. Harry Lancellotti
Staff Sgt. Daniel Han	Staff Sgt. Michael Flaherty
Staff Sgt. Scott Wyne	Staff Sgt. Shavon Lee
Staff Sgt. Monoel Robinson	Staff Sgt. Dave Greer, Sr.
Staff Sgt. John Wallace	Staff Sgt. Paul Richardson

Promotions Effective May 1

Senior Airman Jason Andrepont
Senior Airman Nancy Corey
Senior Airman Michael Truet
Senior Airman Benjamin McCafferty
Senior Airman Susan Ward
Senior Airman Jennifer Carter
Senior Airman Koffi Azomme
Senior Airman Randolph Cornish
Senior Airman Max Andrade
Senior Airman Krystal Rose
Senior Airman Elise Rosemond
Senior Airman Bridget Davis



Airman First Class Shavaughn Johnson
Airman First Class Heather Morehouse
Airman First Class Andrew German



Airman Nicholas Seemiller



Meritorious Service Medal

Lt. Col. Mark E. Skinner
Lt. Col. Thomas D. Chaleki
Lt. Col. Dale L. Bateman
Maj. Paula F. Penson
Maj. William D. O'Hara III
Capt. Bruce W. Howard
Capt. Earl H. Kauffman



Air Force Commendation Medal

Maj. Barry W. Jones
Master Sgt. Doranette Y. Porter
Tech. Sgt. Jayne T. Purnell



Air Force Achievement Medal

Maj. Cheryl L. Hansen
1st. Lt. Michael A. Attebury
1st. Lt. Robert J. McGrath

Retirements

Col. Rita Kerrick
Chief Master Sgt. Amndo Bowman
Master Sgt. Wendy Pritchett
Master Sgt. Lennox Grant
Master Sgt. Tyrone Simmons
Master Sgt. Gustav Jakowitsch, Jr.
Master Sgt. Bebedict Balinsat
Master Sgt. Hugh Sharkey
Tech. Sgt. Leighton Domingo
Tech. Sgt. Albert Briggs
Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Alexander

Fuel to the Fight . . .



**Anytime!
Anywhere!**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Push-up Challenge

In keeping with AFRC fitness goals, the First Sergeants Council would like to invite all squadrons to compete in a push-up contest. The rules are simple. Each squadron will select one male and one female member to represent them at the wing competition.

Squadrons are encouraged to conduct their own competitions to determine their representatives. The contest will identify the member who can do the most push-ups with no time limit. The winning squadron will be determined by the number of push-ups completed for a squadron (the male and female totals combined). The winning team will win \$50 cash prizes and a trophy will be given to the winning squadron commander to display for one year. The contest will be held on Saturday, June 25 at noon.

Airman Magazine Changes to Quarterly Publication

Beginning in July, Airman magazine will be distributed on a quarterly basis versus monthly, to include the January almanac edition.

Vehicle Decals Now Available

The 459th Security Forces Squadron and 89 AW Visitor Center (located outside the main gate) issue vehicle decals. Currently the 459 SFS is out of decals, but the 89 AW Visitor Center recently received their decal order and will assist you during the week. To receive a decal you will need the following: ID card; driver's license; vehicle registration; proof of insurance. Everything must be current and valid. When 459 SFS has more decals, a mass e-mail will be send out. Please call 459 SFS at 7-4150 if you have any questions.

Point Credit Summary No Longer Mailed

The Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver no longer mails Air Force Form 526, Air National Guard/Air Force Reserve Point Credit Summary, to Air Force reservists. Guard and Reserve members must now use the virtual Military Personnel Flight to print a copy of their point credit information. They may call Headquarters ARPC/DPPK toll free at 1-800-525-0102 for questions and concerns about credit of points. They can access the vMPF by going to: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/vs/.

459 ARW Web site Up and Running



Log on to <http://www.afrc.af.mil/459arw> to view the 459th Air Refueling Wing's external Web site. Lodging instruction, attendance policy, health assessment, and much more can now be accessed from any computer with internet access.

First Sergeant Vacancies

The First Sergeant position is available in 459 AES. If interested, submit a resume reflecting your military and civilian work history, awards, and education. Also include a letter of recommendation from your squadron commander and a letter explaining why you're interested in becoming a First Sergeant. Please submit packages to Chief Master Sgt. Patti Hickman, 459 ARW Command Chief. For questions call Chief Hickman at (240) 857-2934.

Committee Reviewing Military Pay Package

A new committee is studying the military compensation system to come up with ways to bring it more in line with what servicemembers want and operational needs demand. The committee will look at the whole compensation program for people in the active and reserve components. This includes basic, special and incentive pays; benefits ranging from housing to medical care; and deferred pay that includes retirement pay and survivor benefits. The committee will attempt to strike the best balance between cash and benefits, current and deferred compensation, and the need for flexibility during peacetime as well as war. For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news>.

TRICARE Reserve Select Now Available

The Department of Defense announced the start of health care coverage under TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS)-a new premium-based health plan for certain eligible National Guard and Reserve members and family members. For a monthly premium of \$75 for TRS member-only coverage and \$233 for TRS member and family member coverage, TRS offers comprehensive health coverage. TRICARE information is available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve/reserveselect.

PAY DAYS

Run Date	Check Date
June 22	July 1
June 28	July 8
June 30	July 13
July 5	July 15
July 12	July 18
July 14	July 22
July 18	July 27
July 19	July 29

2005 UTA SCHEDULE

June 25-26, Alt 11-12
 July 30-31, Alt 9-10
 Aug. 27-28, Alt 13-14
 Sep 24-25, *Alt 10-11

*This UTA date is a change to the originally published schedule.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Freedom Hall (Active Duty side)

Breakfast: Weekdays, 5:30 a.m. - 8 a.m.

Lunch: Weekdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Dinner: Weekdays, 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Carryout: Weekdays, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

UTA Weekends brunch: 6 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UTA Weekends dinner: 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Liberty Hall (Reserve side)

Breakfast: weekdays, 7 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Lunch: weekdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

UTA weekends Brunch: 6 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotline

(240) 981-2429

Passport Photos

Passport photos taken at Bldg. 1535, Room

102, D Wing. For appt., call (301) 981-5776.

Walk-in hours, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

459 AMDS

****New hours of operation****

Mon., Weds., Thurs: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tues. & Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Military Pay

Mon. - Fri., 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

UTA Sat., 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Closed UTA Sun.

Office: (240) 857-0314/0315

Easy Pay Access: 1-800-755-7413

Military Personnel Flight

Hours of operation for all MPF offices are Mon.

Fri. and UTAs: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Customer Service: Rm. 117; 857-3843

*Newcomers: UTA Sat: 7 - 11 a.m.

*AEF and newcomers: UTA Sat: 8 - 11 a.m.

*All other customers: UTA Sat: After 11 a.m.

Career Enhancement: Rm. 118; 857-2853

Education & Training: Rm. 144; 857-9426

Personnel Relocation: Rm. 115; 857-2835

Personnel Employment: Rm. 115; 857-6739

Legal Office

Walk-in Legal Assistance, UTA Sat., 1:30-3:30

p.m.; Sun. 10-11 a.m., Rm. 220-222, Bldg. 3755;

(240) 857-3855.

Worship Schedule

Protestant:

Sun. 7:30 a.m.- 459 CES (Bldg. 3756)

Sun. 8:30 a.m.- Chapel 2 (Bldg. 3715)

Sun. 2 p.m.- 459 AMDS (Bldg. 3757)

Catholic Mass:

Sat. 5:30 p.m.- Chapel 3 (Bldg. 1679)

Sun. 9:30 a.m.- Chapel 3 (Bldg. 1679)

Air Force Reserve adopts new recruiting logo

From this:



To this:



AIR FORCE RESERVE

Air Force Reserve Command has a new advertising logo that more closely aligns it with the active force while touting the command as a high-tech, professional fighting force. Sleek and simple, the AFRC logo features the Air Force's new logo alongside the words "Air Force Reserve" in a stylish, modern typeface. AFRC recruiting officials began working with Blaine Warren Advertising in January to develop the new logo. It replaces the "Above and Beyond" logo featured in Reserve recruiting and advertising products since 1998. AFRC senior leaders approved the new logo in May.

459TH AIR REFUELING WING
AIR FORCE RESERVE
3755 PATRICK AVENUE
ANDREWS AFB MD 20762-4814
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

First Class Mail
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Temple Hills MD
Permit No. 4004

The Boomer is published for family members like three-year-old Nile and one-year-old Jordan, sons of Tech Sgt. Ron Home, 459 ASTS.